

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3685
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
USE OF IAF AIRCRAFT
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Air Head quarter irregularly modified eight Aircraft `A` for VIP use during 1992-1999 and 2001-2003;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether Communication Squadron aircraft meant for use by VIPs are mostly used by senior Air Force Officers ;
- (d) the total hours of flying undertaken during the last five years, by VIPs and by others including senior Air Force officers; and
- (e) the steps taken to check the misuse of aircraft ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)&(b): Air Headquarters (HQ) modified eight aircraft for VIP use during 1992-1999 and 2001-2003 to meet the necessary flying commitments.

The modification of aircraft for VIP role was undertaken mainly for the purpose of providing airlift to airbases in mountainous region such as Leh and Thoise and also in the Eastern region. This was also necessitated as then HS-748 fleet in Air HQ communication Squadron was not operationally suited for use in all areas.

(c) & (d): All flying in the Indian Air Force is conducted as per existing instructions and is well regulated. The civilian VIPs are flown based on their entitlement/clearance by appropriate authority. Senior service officers fly on duty related missions due to operational necessity based on existing instructions.

(e) Necessary instructions exist for regulating the use of IAF/VIP aircraft.